After a three-year lapse and with a better knowledge of the areas where problems would arise, the index was produced for 1988 following the ANSI standard, which defines a U.S. Serial Service and the methodology to be followed in producing the price index. Titles included in this index fit the ANSI definition: "a periodical publication that revises, cumulates, abstracts, or indexes information in a specific field on a regular basis by means of new or replacement issues, pages, or cards, intended to provide information otherwise not readily available."[1]

1. The price index is organized by subject category.

2. Prices for 1988 were taken from publisher information (list price) or a library acquisition record (here, Harvard University libraries' acquisitions records were used). If a 1988 price was not found, the 1987 price was carried over (that is permitted for one year only).

3. Discontinued titles or titles no longer considered serial services were dropped and replaced.

4. The guidelines for computation of average prices and price index were followed.

The data shows that the average price of a U.S. Serial Service is $341.32 for 1988. It should be noted that Soviet Translations (a category of journal titles) were removed from this index and have been part of the U.S. Periodicals Index since 1985. The absence of this category in the index in 1988 will affect comparison of average price with the 1977–1984 data. Table 1 shows the average price and index for all services and Tables 2-7 give data for the six subject categories. Table 8, a separate table for the Wilson indexes, was produced by the Wilson Company. Wilson has given an average price and index based on the prices that its subscribers paid each year divided by the total number of subscribers. The 1977 and 1978 figures represent 18 indexes, and 1979–1988 represent 19 indexes (reflecting the inclusion of *General Science Index*, begun in 1979).

References

1. American National Standards Institute, Inc. American National Standard for Library and Information Sciences and Related Publishing Practices—Library Materials—Criteria for Prices Indexes (ANSI Z39.20—1983). ANSI, 1983, p. 9.

Serial Services

Table 1: U.S. SERIALS SERVICES
(excluding "Wilson Index"; excluding Soviet Translations as of 1988)

Year	No. of Titles	Average Price	Percent Increase	Index
1977	1,432	$142.27	--	100.0
1978	1,426	153.95	8.2	108.2
1979	1,450	171.06	11.1	120.2
1980	1,470	194.21	13.5	136.5
1981	1,477	219.75	13.2	154.5
1982	1,494	244.52	11.3	171.9
1983	1,525	274.72	12.4	182.1
1984	1,537	295.13	7.4	207.4
1985–87	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
1988	1,310	341.32	n.a.	239.9

Table 2: BUSINESS

Year	No. of Titles	Average Price	Percent Increase	Index
1977	255	$216.28	--	100.0
1978	262	222.45	2.9	102.9
1979	270	249.05	12.0	115.2
1980	279	294.00	18.0	135.9
1981	271	343.29	16.8	158.7
1982	276	371.03	8.1	171.6
1983	286	417.83	12.6	193.2
1984	289	437.07	4.6	202.1
1985–87	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
1988	281	458.33	n.a.	211.9

Table 3: GENERAL & HUMANITIES

Year	No. of Titles	Average Price	Percent Increase	Index
1977	113	$90.44	--	100.0
1978	113	94.88	4.9	104.9
1979	114	118.83	25.2	131.4
1980	118	124.28	4.6	137.4
1981	120	142.04	14.3	157.1
1982	119	160.03	12.7	176.9
1983	120	186.67	16.6	206.4
1984	122	196.55	5.3	217.3
1985–87	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
1988	116	225.95	n.a.	249.8

Table 4: LAW

Year	No. of Titles	Average Price	Percent Increase	Index
1977	229	$126.74	--	100.0
1978	235	137.91	8.8	108.8
1979	241	158.65	15.0	125.2
1980	248	184.38	16.2	145.5
1981	251	212.85	15.4	167.9
1982	256	232.61	9.3	183.5
1983	268	249.64	7.3	197.0
1984	272	275.23	10.3	217.2
1985–87	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
1988	265	338.13	n.a.	266.8

Table 5: SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Year	No. of Titles	Average Price	Percent Increase	Index
1977	297	$141.16	--	100.0
1978	289	160.61	13.8	113.8
1979	290	173.96	8.3	123.2
1980	288	191.35	10.0	135.6
1981	287	214.01	11.8	151.6
1982	286	229.98	7.5	162.9
1983	282	270.94	17.8	191.9
1984	281	295.36	9.0	209.2
1985–87	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
1988	302	378.37	n.a.	268.0

Table 6: SOCIAL SCIENCES

Year	No. of Titles	Average Price	Percent Increase	Index
1977	134	$145.50	--	100.0
1978	136	153.94	5.8	105.8
1979	139	169.55	10.1	116.5
1980	143	190.07	12.1	130.6
1981	144	215.12	13.2	147.8
1982	149	249.03	15.8	171.2
1983	159	266.43	7.0	183.1
1984	159	283.82	6.5	195.1
1985–87	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
1988*	156	441.67	n.a.	303.6

* The average price includes two expensive titles, "Leading National Advertiser Multi-media Report Service" at $8750 and "LNA-PIB Magazine Service," priced at $7300. If these titles are omitted, the average price drops to $343.18

Table 7: U.S. DOCUMENTS

Year	No. of Titles	Average Price	Percent Increase	Index
1977	204	$62.88	--	100.0
1978	196	72.52	15.3	115.3
1979	198	75.87	4.6	120.7
1980	197	78.87	4.0	125.4
1981	200	84.48	7.1	134.4
1982	202	99.05	17.2	157.5
1983	203	101.24	2.2	161.0
1984	203	97.37	-3.8	154.9
1985–87	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
1988	190	101.88	n.a.	162.0

Table 8: WILSON INDEX

Year	No. of Titles	Average Price	Percent Increase	Index
1977	18	$87.51	--	100.0
1978	18	95.99	9.7	109.7
1979	19	104.68	9.1	119.6
1980	19	114.05	9.0	130.3
1981	19	122.30	7.2	139.8
1982	19	132.55	8.4	151.5
1983	19	139.93	5.6	159.9
1984	19	155.77	11.3	178.0
1985	19	176.98	13.6	202.2
1986	19	193.54	9.4	221.2
1987	19	203.59	5.2	232.6
1988*	19	211.31	3.8	241.5

* The 1988 average price and index are estimated figures